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The World Bank
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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August 12, 1985

Ms. Carmel Budiarjo
General Secretary
British Campaign for the Defence
of Political Prisoners and Human
Rights in Indonesia
8a Treport Street
London SW18 2BP
England

Dear Ms. Budiarjo:

Mr. Clausen has asked me to reply to your letter of July 2 regarding World Bank support for family planning activities in Indonesia, particularly in East Timor. I am very sorry that our first reply to your enquiry was not exactly to the point.

I can confirm to you that the Bank is supporting Indonesia's population programs through various projects, including the construction of a family planning and health center in Dili. In view of the country's large population -- the fifth largest in the world -- family planning efforts are a key aspect of Indonesia's development program and we believe that it is important to support such efforts. It is World Bank policy that acceptance of family planning should be voluntary and should offer freedom of choice among a range of methods. In our view, Indonesia's population program is consistent with these principles.

There is no inherent contradiction between the Government's population and transmigration programs. As long as there are large parts of the country which are lightly populated, it is the Government's purpose, understandably, to assist in the redistribution of the existing population. On the other hand, one of the several purposes of the national population planning program is to ensure that the size of the average family within Indonesia is viable in view of the incomes and employment likely to be available.

We are aware of the special circumstances of East Timor and are acting in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the matter. We believe that family planning and health projects are a suitable form of assistance in the area, as they are capable of providing important economic and social benefits to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Ann O. Hamilton
Chief, Indonesia Division
Country Programs Department
East Asia and Pacific Regional Office